

Appln No. 10/783,227  
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**Amendments to the Abstract:**

Please replace the "ABSTRACT" section with the following section:

**ABSTRACT**

An optical receiving apparatus according to the present invention comprises an optical signal branching circuit for receiving a signal light input from an optical transmission line, a discriminator for discriminating an output signal of the optical signal branching circuit, an evaluator for evaluating characteristics of another output signal of the optical signal branching circuit. The evaluator includes a saturable absorber for determining the discrimination threshold of the discriminator.

An optical receiving apparatus includes: a photodetector for converting an optical signal input from an optical transmission line to an electrical signal and a clock extractor for extracting a clock from the electrical signal. The apparatus also includes a threshold controller programmed with information about clock amplitude versus threshold characteristics and for collating an amplitude of the extracted clock with the clock amplitude versus threshold characteristics and for determining and providing to the discriminator a discrimination threshold. The apparatus also includes a discriminator for discriminating the electrical signal by applying to the electrical signal the determined discrimination threshold.